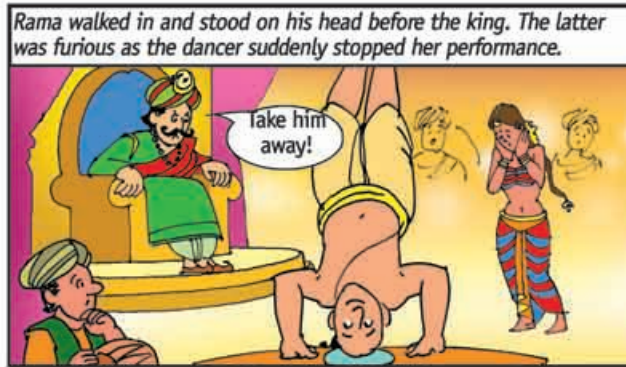
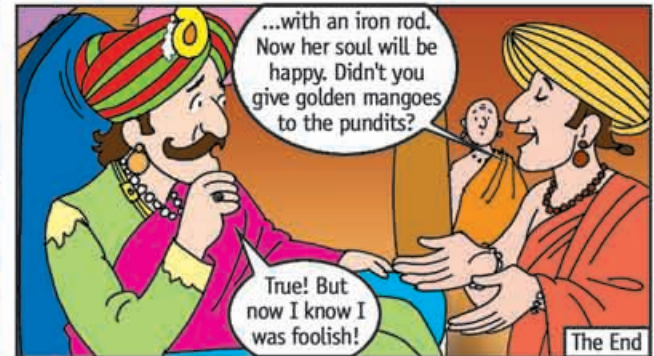
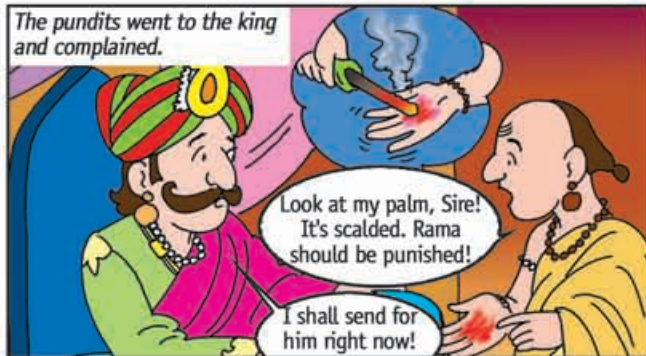
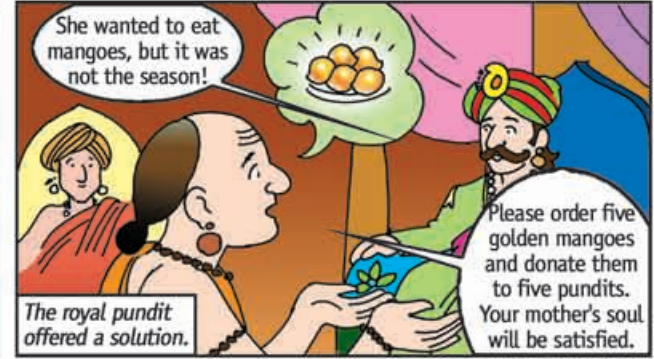
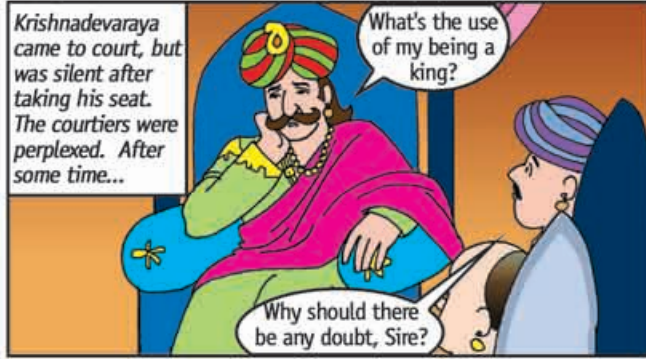


Tenali Rama was yet to become popular in Krishnadevaraya's court.









Tenali Rama was the most favoured courtier in Krishnadevaraya's court. The royal priest Tatachari was jealous of Rama.



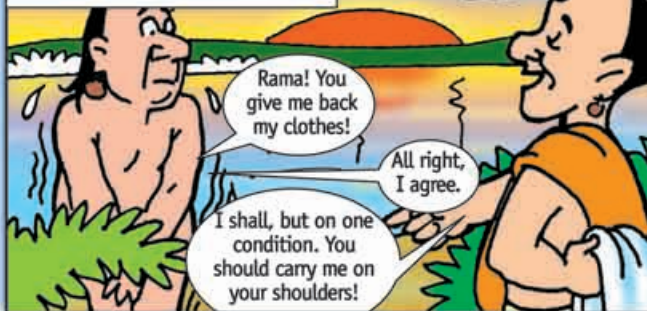
Tatachari used every opportunity to taunt Rama. But one day...



The priest was aghast when he did not find his clothes.



Tatachari was trembling with anger.



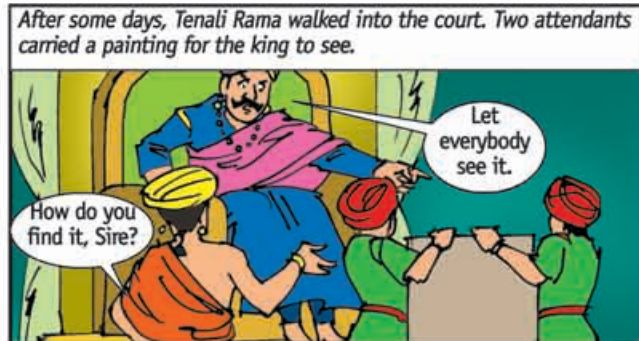
The sight of the royal priest carrying Tenali Rama created a commotion in the streets. The king, who had come out, was shocked.



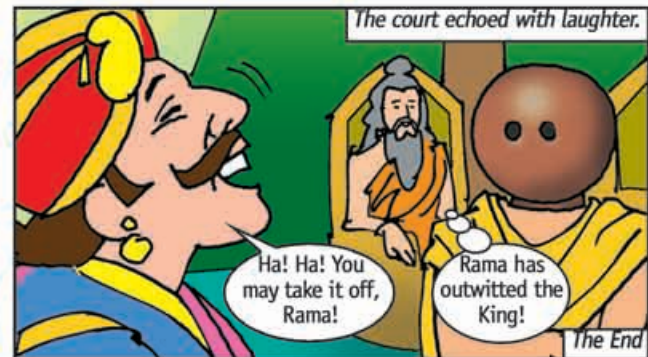
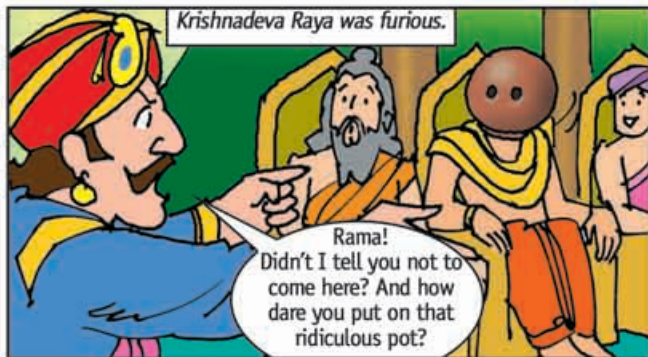
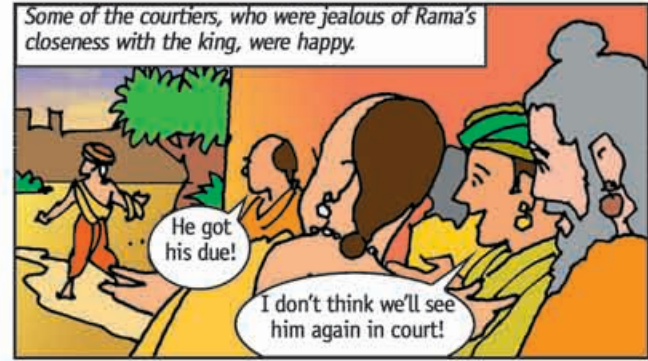
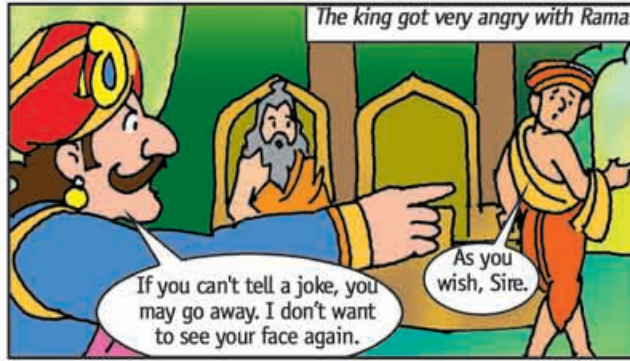
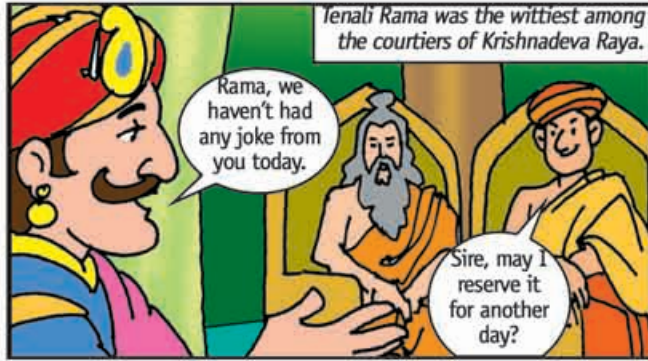
The guards rushed in and landed heavy blows on the priest. He lost his balance and fell down.









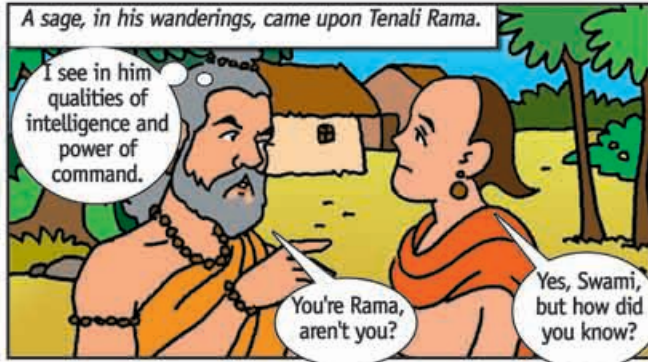




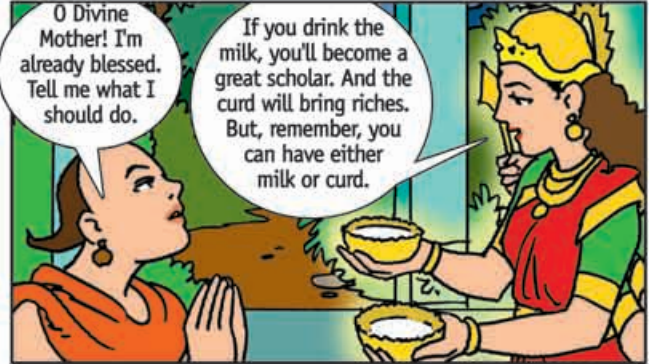




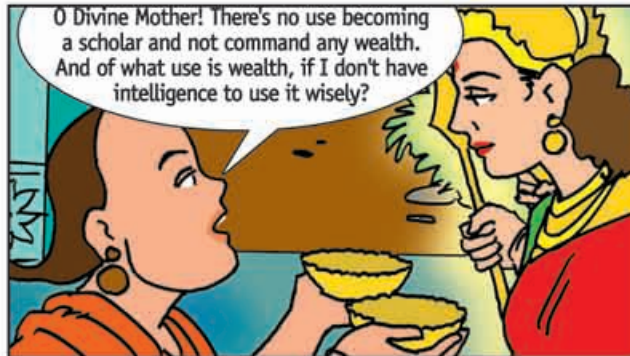
A sage, in his wanderings, came upon Tenali Rama.



Rama began chanting the mantra non-stop.



Without paying any heed to the caution, Rama grabbed both bowls and emptied them in a trice. The goddess was puzzled.



The End



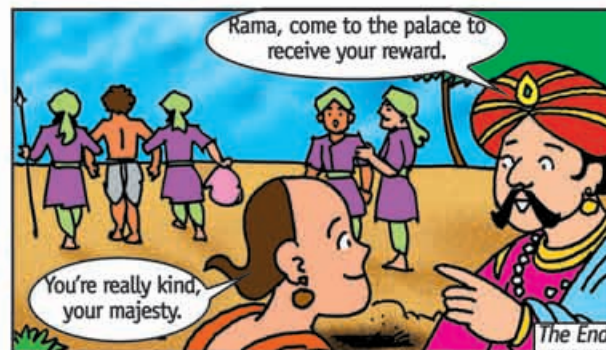
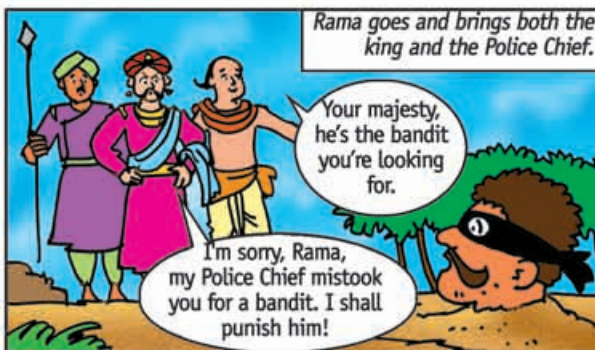
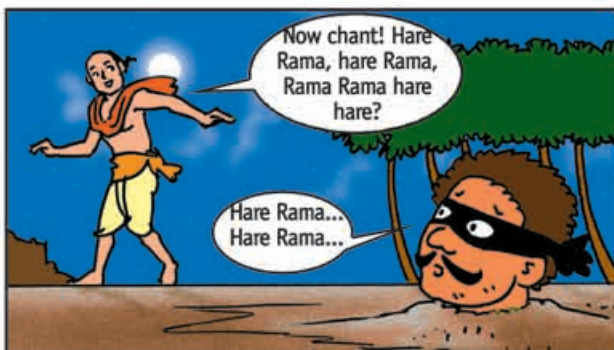
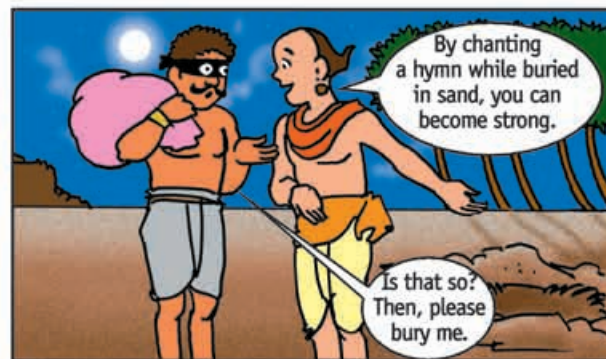
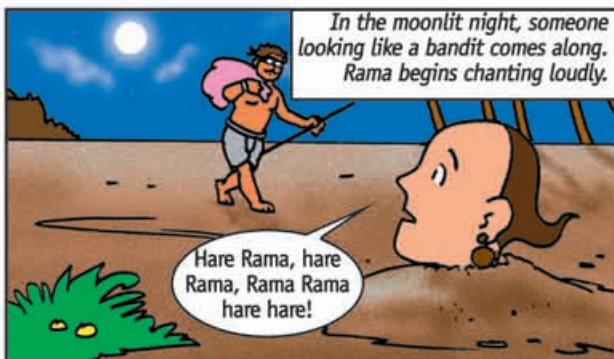
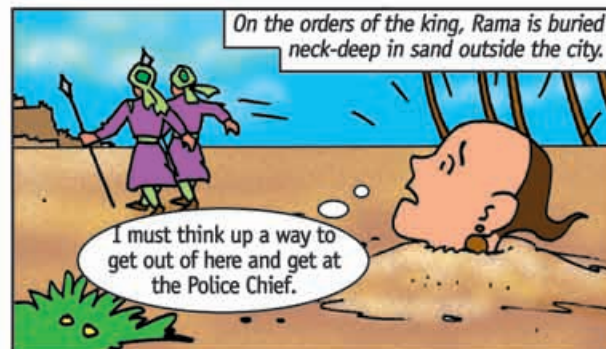
A bandit has been harassing the people. Krishnadevaraya summons the Police Chief.



The Police Chief is keen to pocket the reward himself. So, for him everybody was a bandit.

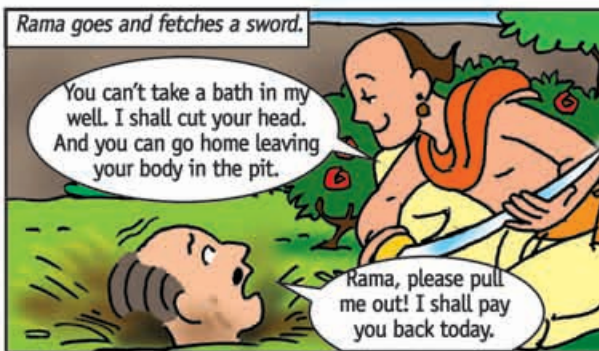
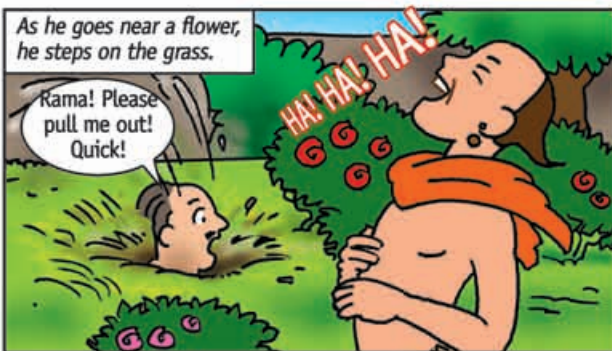
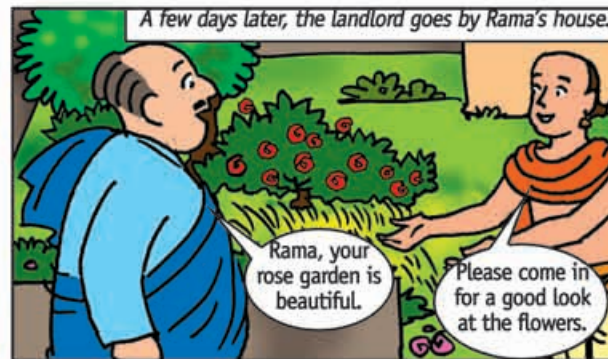
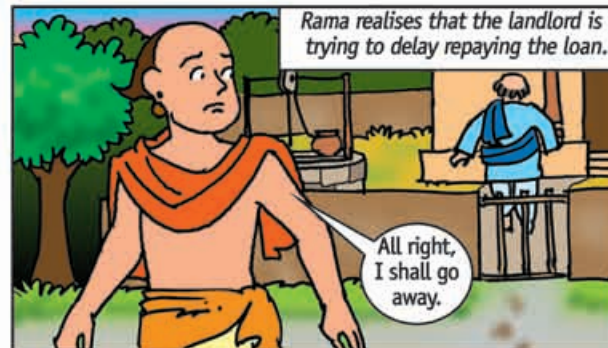


On the orders of the king, Rama is buried neck-deep in sand outside the city.

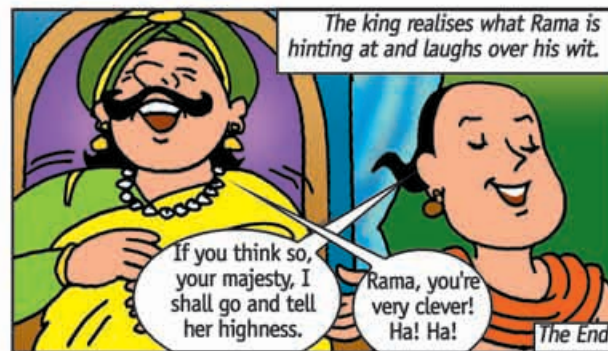
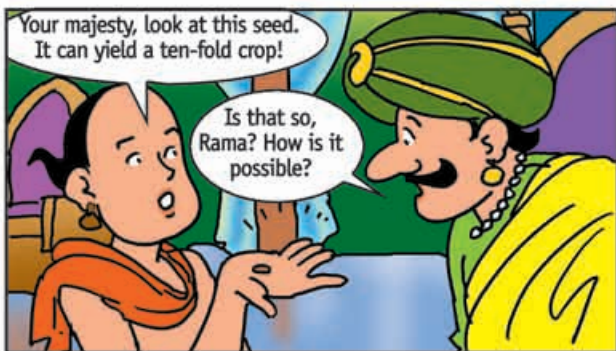
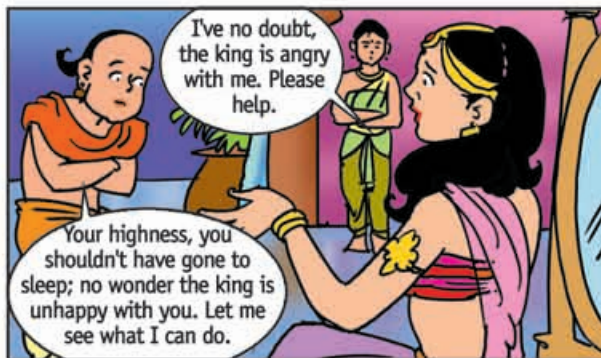
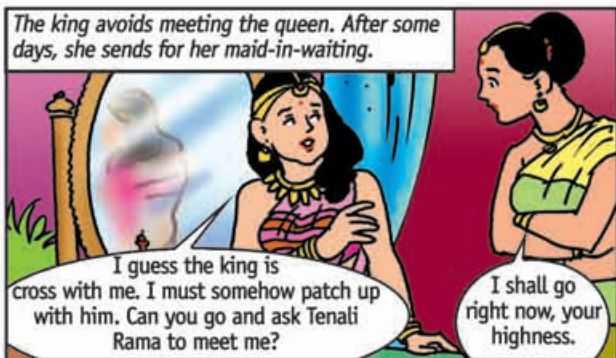
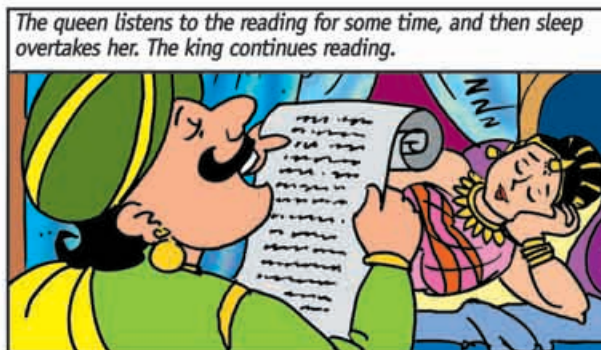




One day Tenali Rama goes to his landlord who had promised to return the money he had borrowed. As he crosses the courtyard, he steps on some filth.









One day, Krishnadevaraya sends for Tenali Rama.



Rama rides his horse. It is winter. It starts drizzling. Rama is tired and hungry by the time he reaches the hill residence of Raghuram.



Rama finds him by the fireside eating meat cutlets and sweetmeats.



Raghuram does not offer a seat but continues to eat as he listens to the message. Later...



Raghuram goes to the horse. However much he tries, the horse refuses to eat the meat cutlet.

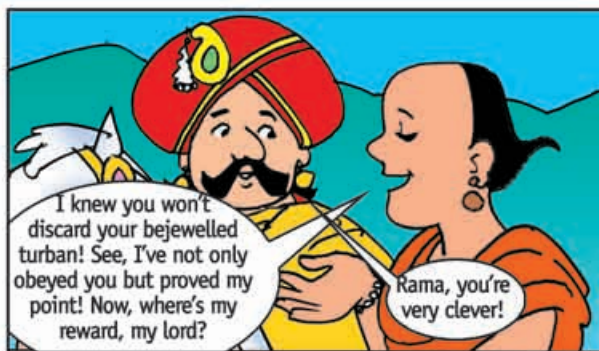
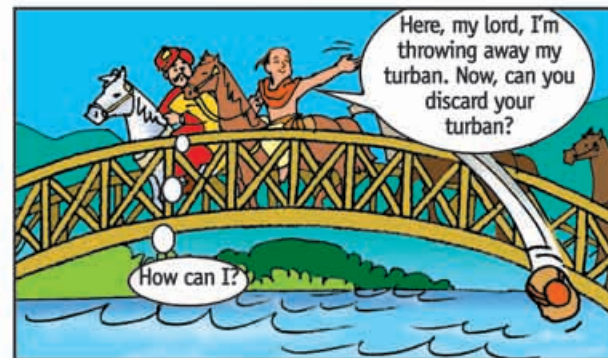
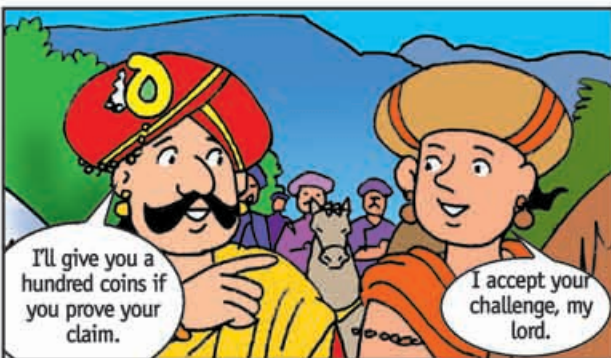
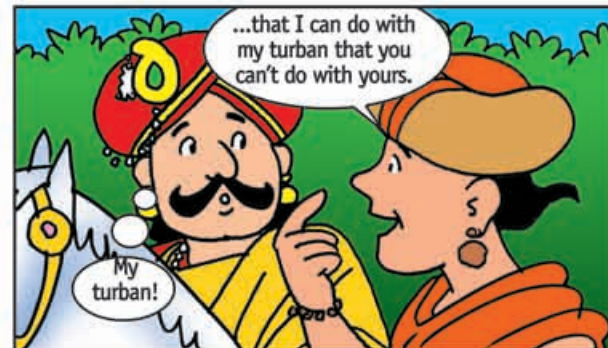
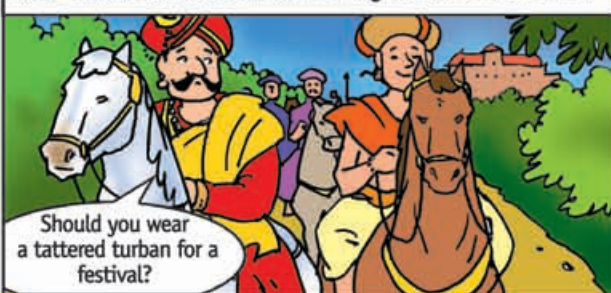


Meanwhile, Rama occupied the seat and helped himself to the delicacies.





Krishnadevaraya goes to watch a village festival, accompanied by Tenali Rama and some courtiers. The king notices Rama's turban.

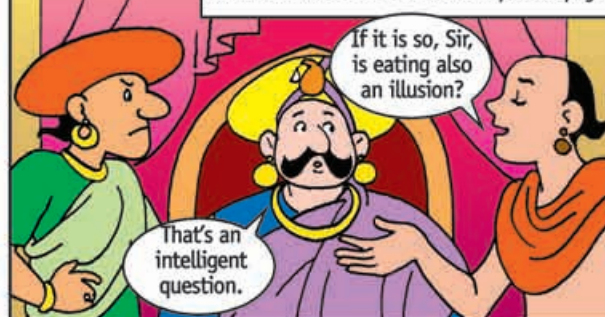




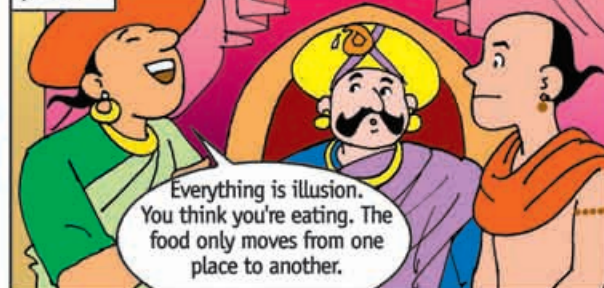
A visiting scholar gives a long lecture at the court of Krishnadevaraya. Tenali Rama is present.



Rama is amused at the scholar's philosophy.



Though taken aback at first, the scholar guffaws over Rama's question.



The courtiers applaud the scholar.



The scholar arrives on time.



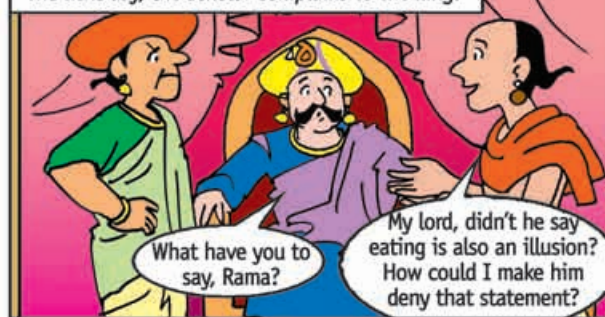
The guests arrive and they all sit on the floor. Rama serves food. They start eating.



Rama feigns surprise.



The next day, the scholar complains to the king.



Amidst peals of laughter, the king honours Rama.

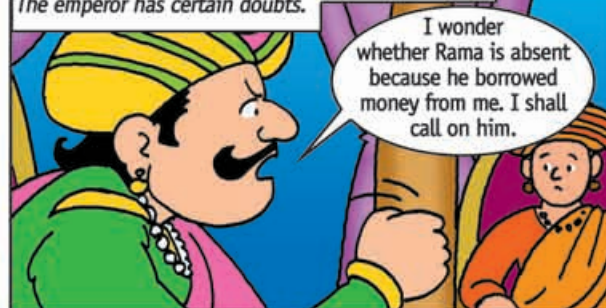




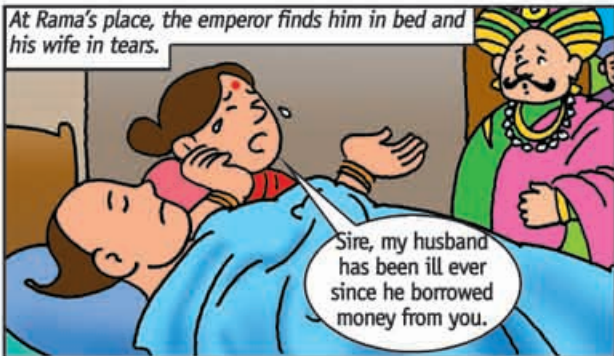
Tenali Rama one day borrows money from Krishnadeva Raya.



Rama fails to attend the court for the next few days. The emperor has certain doubts.



At Rama's place, the emperor finds him in bed and his wife in tears.



The emperor is worried.



The emperor takes pity on the woman.



Rama was just waiting for this moment.

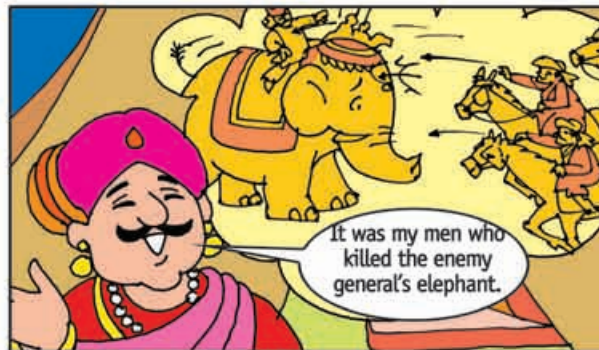


The emperor is furious.

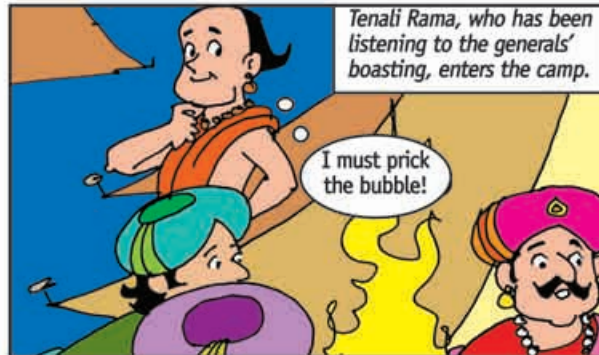




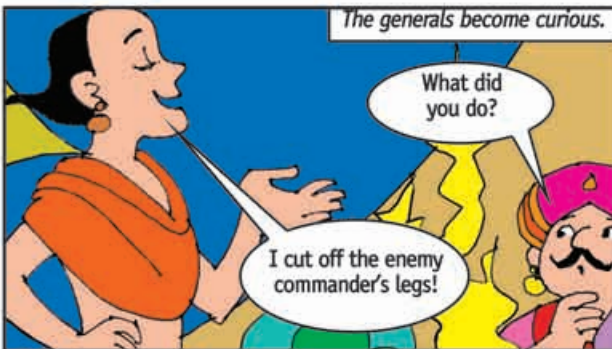
Soon after victory in a battle, Krishnadeva Raya's generals are relaxing around a camp fire.



Listen to what I did! I routed the enemy cavalry single-handed.



The generals become curious.



The generals look at each other, surprised.





Like every other poet, Tenali Rama, too, receives a monthly salary from Krishnadeva Raya.



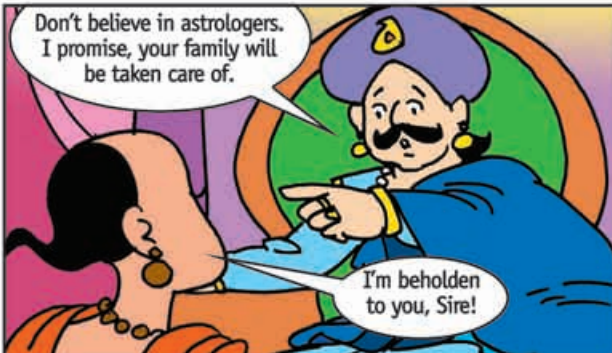
At home, Rama's wife complains.



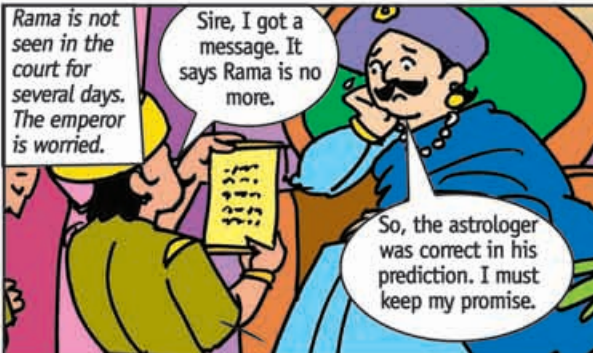
One day, Rama presents his family to the emperor.



Don't believe in astrologers. I promise, your family will be taken care of.



Rama is not seen in the court for several days. The emperor is worried.



Madam, this money has been sent by the emperor.



A few days later, Rama appears in the court.



It was true, Sire. Chitragupta told me he had made a mistake!





Krishnadeva Raya had eight well-known poets in his court. Whenever he found someone else excelling them, he rewarded them handsomely.



I'm greatly pleased. Please accept this.

I'm honoured, your majesty.

One day, Rama Shastri from Ujjaini visited the court.



Your majesty, I wish to engage your poets in a contest.

Of course, I'll be happy to see your performance.

I'm even prepared to forsake my titles if any one of your poets can compose better poetry.



The contest began. First, one of the court poets recited a poem.



May I now read my poem?

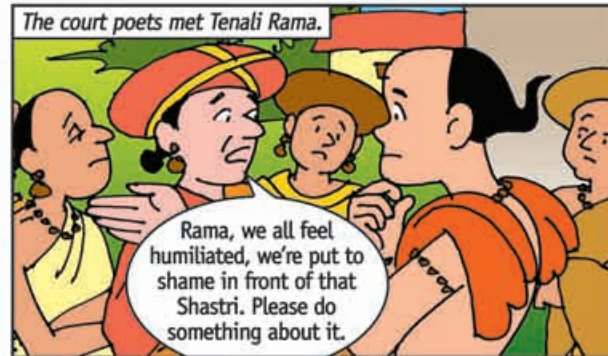
Please go ahead.

The emperor, out of courtesy to a visiting poet, gave a reward to Rama Shastri.

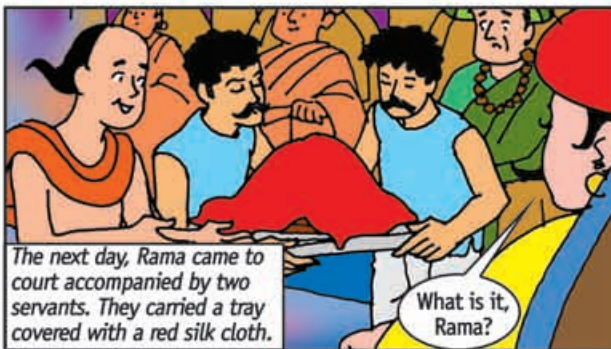


My poem was really a better one. I feel ashamed.

The court poets met Tenali Rama.

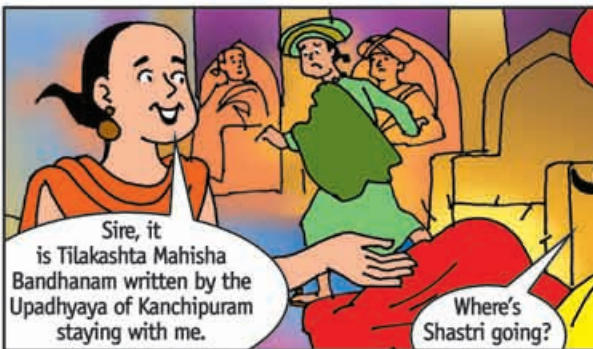


Rama, we all feel humiliated, we're put to shame in front of that Shastri. Please do something about it.



The next day, Rama came to court accompanied by two servants. They carried a tray covered with a red silk cloth.

What is it, Rama?



Sire, it is Tilakashta Mahisha Bandhanam written by the Upadhyaya of Kanchipuram staying with me.

Where's Shastri going?

On Rama Shastri leaving the court...



Sire, it's nothing but rope (bandhanam) used for tying buffaloes (mahisha)!

Well done, Rama! Ha! Ha!

The End



Rama does not let go a chance to befool Krishnadeva Raya.

Spread it, it'll dry fast.

Wet sugar?

The emperor decides to play a practical joke on Rama.

No, Rama, it's sand.

Sand, Sire?

Yes, a special kind of sand. It got wet when it was being brought to the palace.

Rama departs without saying anything.

Ha! Ha! Rama fell for it. Ha! Ha!

Raya tells his queen how he fooled Rama.

He didn't have any doubt.

But, see what's happening in the courtyard.

The emperor is horrified to see Rama and his son guzzling down handfuls of sugar.

The emperor rushes to the courtyard.

Rama, what do you think you're doing?

I'm in mourning, Sire.

Who're you mourning for?

Our buffalo had died. As per the custom, we're munching sand to drown our sorrow.

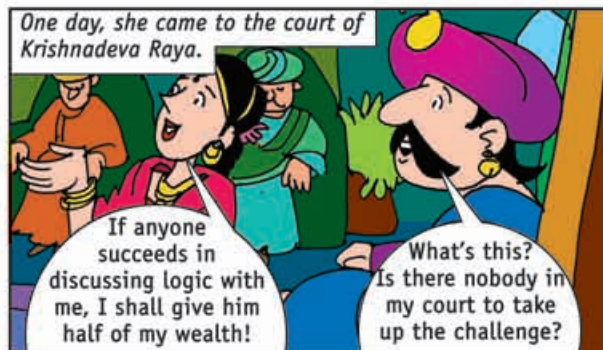
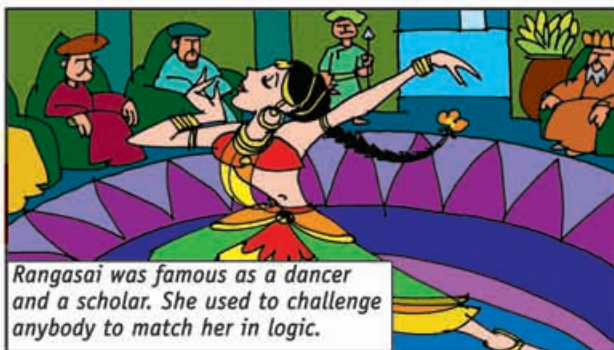
The emperor realises that he has been outwitted.

Hey, remove this sugar and bring a plate of sweetmeats for them.

Sire, our sorrow has now vanished!

The End







Artist Rajavarma exhibited his portrait of Krishnadeva Raya in the court. The emperor was highly impressed.

Rajavarma, I hereby appoint you as our Chief Minister.

It's a great honour, your majesty.

Unfortunately, Rajavarma was not efficient in his rule. There were more robberies and lawlessness. The people were discontent.

The citizens approached Tenali Rama.

Please get that man removed from his post.

You leave it to me.

